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**FY 2019**  
**SMALL NEPA PROJECT DESCRIPTION**  
**Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests**

Please **do not leave any field BLANK**, unless it does not apply.  
Submit form (Word doc) electronically to jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us by **February 7, 2020**.

*(NOTE: Italicized / red comments are for reference only. You may delete them after completing form.)*

<b>Project Name</b>	Culvert Upsizing and Installation
<b>District Name (or "Forestwide")</b>	Salmon River Ranger District
<b>County where project located?</b>	Idaho
<b>FS Personnel Name, Phone Number and Email</b> <i>If a partnership, please add name, phone and email; however, <b>an FS employee MUST BE the project proponent</b> and point of contact.</i>	Chris Wolffing 208-983-5153 Christopher.wolffing@usda.gov
<b>Legal Location</b> <i>Township(s), Range(s), and Section(s) of project.</i>	T27N R1E Section 29 T26N R1E Sections 4, 6, 8, and 16
<b>Decision Maker's Name</b> <i>District Ranger/Line Officer responsible for signing the decision document</i>	Jeff Shinn
<b>Is the project associated with meeting a Forest target?</b>	Yes, Improves stream crossings on haul roads
<b>Which CE Category does this project fit?</b> <i>Provide citation: 36 CFR 220.6(e)(x)</i> <i>See below regarding 220.6(d)(x) projects.</i>	36 CFR 220.6(e)(18)
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>**This block to be completed ONLY if submitting a 36 CFR 220.6 (d) category project.**</b></p> <p><b><u>A Project Record and written Decision are not required for projects using a 36 CFR 220.6 (d) category,</u></b> except at the Decision Maker's discretion.</p> <p><b><i>IF</i> being submitted under <u>36 CFR 220.6 (d)</u>, does the Decision Maker want a written Decision?</b> Yes      No</p> <p><b><i>If no</i>, this form <b>does not</b> need to be filled out nor submitted to the Small NEPA planner.</b></p> <p><b><i>If yes</i>, provide the category above, complete the remainder of this form and have Decision Maker submit it to the Small NEPA planner.</b></p>	

**At what level does the Decision Maker want the project scoped?**

Internal   X   External\*       

*Internal scoping will be through the Small NEPA IDT, unless otherwise specified. Scoping would be documented in the Extraordinary Circumstances Checklist.*

*External scoping will be with the public via a scoping letter, a legal notice, and the scoping letter posted on the NPCWNF website. The Project will only be scoped to the Tribe(s) et al (see \* below), unless otherwise specified.*

*\*For external scoping, please to complete block below. Provide NA if no additional publics are to be scoped.*

**Provide a list of the individuals, groups, agencies, etc. (other than those listed below\*) with their mailing address and/or email address, of those who will be included for External Scoping.**

- DO NOT provide only a name.
- DO NOT leave this box blank: If no additional individuals are to be externally scoped please enter NA.

NA

*\* The following will be included for all SN externally scoped projects: Nez Perce Tribe, Coeur d'Alene Tribe (North Zone projects only), Friends of the Clearwater, Idaho Conservation League, American Forest Resource Council, Idaho Wildlife Federation, IDFG – Clearwater Region, Thomas E. Peterson, Bill Mulligan, Gregg Winkler, Phil/Jean Poxleitner (Red River projects only)*

**Does the Decision Maker want a Legal Notice published in the Lewiston Tribune? Yes\*        No   X**

*\* The scoping period will start the day after the LN is published.*

**What Level of Analysis (below) does the Decision Maker want for the Project?**

  X   **Low level:** Choose this level if the project's level of public scrutiny is expected to be relatively low or unknown. Documentation for low level analysis projects would be a completed Extraordinary Circumstances checklist filled out by the specialists, including the name of the specialist who performed the analysis, the project name, and date it was completed. No other written documentation would be generated.

       **Moderate level:** Choose this level if the project's level of public scrutiny is expected to be relatively moderate to high. In this case, specialists would complete the Extraordinary Circumstances checklist with the only write up being for resources that are present and the rationale for the effects call. No write up would be given for items in the checklist that are not present.

If the determination is no effect (which most CE's should have zero to very little adverse effects), then document *why* that determination was made in one paragraph or less. If the determination is an adverse effect, then *why* that determination was made would be written in less than three paragraphs.

**List the Management Area(s) in which your project is located.**

12-Timber, 13-Timber/Visual Quality and Sensitivity, 16-Elk, and 18-Winter Range

**What are the Goals and Standards\* for the Management Area(s) listed above that are *relevant to your project*?**

Chapter II

(pg. II-1) "Provide a stable and cost-efficient transportation system through construction , reconstruction, maintenance, or transportation system management"

(pg. II-7) "All transportation systems will be constructed to standards which incorporate BMPs and restrict sediment production to a level that meets or exceed State water quality standards..."

Chapter III

(pg. III-3) MA 12 and 13: "Manage for timber production..."

(pg. III-38) "Manage for roaded natural recreation... Meet established fishery/water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds.... Construct and reconstruct primarily to achieve timber management objectives"

(pg. III-47) "1. Construction and reconstruction is permissible when road are necessary to meet the multiple use objectives on adjacent lands. 2. Reconstruct and maintain to meet adjacent management area objectives, provide public safety and reduce environmental damage"

*\* Goals and Standards are described in Chapter 3 of the Nez Perce and Clearwater Forest Plans. Include any **relevant** Forestwide Standards found in Chapter 2 of the Forest Plans as well.*

**Is the project in a designated Idaho Roadless Area (IRA)?** Yes\* No X

If yes, which one?

*\* Fill in the 'Project in Roadless Area' table below, AND complete a Briefing Paper . Provide the completed Briefing Paper to the Environmental Coordinator and Brian Riggers PRIOR TO SCOPING.*

**Is the project in a congressionally designated area, ex. Wilderness Area, Wild & Scenic River Corridor, Research Natural Area, Historic Trail, etc.?** Yes\* No X

**Are there Floodplains or Wetlands in the project area?** Yes X No

**Are there Municipal Watersheds in the project area?** Yes No X

If yes, which one?

**Is the project located in an RHCA?** Yes X No

**Describe the Existing Conditions of the project area.**

Two undersized culverts, one on Forest Service Road 9337 at Sherwin Creek and one on the FSR 9335 at the North Fork of Joe Creek, are starting to plug. Over time this could cause the culverts to fail, resulting in sections of the roads washing into adjacent streams. The ford at Sherwin Creek on FSR 9337B is causing sediment to enter directly into the creek. The creek is typically about 3 feet wide and 4-6 inches deep, but at the ford it flares out to 8-10' width on a bed of river cobble.

**Describe the Desired Conditions of the project.**

- The culverts will be able to handle the 100 year floods without acting as fish barriers.
- Aggregate will be placed on the road above and at least 50 feet on either side of the culverts to prevent sedimentation.
- The ford will no longer add sediment to Sherwin Creek.

**What is the Purpose and Need for the proposed action\*?**

Thirteen culverts were approved for replacement in the Center Johnson EA. Two of the approved culverts were withdrawn from implementation because they were mapped incorrectly (located on the wrong road or shown at the wrong mileage). During site visits to verify the culverts' locations for this project, the culvert proposed on Forest Service Road 9337A, mile 0.64, was not at that location. At its actual location on FSR 9337B, water was running over the top of the road, which was acting as a ford. To protect the road and to keep sediment from entering Sherwin Creek, it was decided a culvert would be installed to replace the ford. During this same site visit a culvert on FSR 9337 at Sherwin Creek was identified as needing replacement. Although within the Center Johnson project area, this culvert was not located on a haul route so it was likely overlooked during that project's development.

Replacing the undersized culverts and installing a culvert to remove the ford is needed to help reduce sedimentation, improve fish habitat and passage, and to extend the life of the roads.

**Describe the Proposed Action.**

What is provided will be used in the Scoping Letter (*external only*), by the resource specialists for their effects analyses, and in the Decision document.

The following culverts will be replaced:

1. Road 9335 Mile 2.965 – an existing 18” culvert will be upsized to 36” with aggregate placement
2. Road 9337 Mile 13.615 – an existing 36” culvert will be upsized to 60” with aggregate placement
3. Road 9337B Mile 0.640 – an existing ford will be replaced with a 48” CMP

The work will be done by a contractor as part of a Public Works contract funded through retained receipts. The Public Works contract would include the culvert replacements approved in the Center Johnson EA.

Installing the culverts would involve diverting live water, removing the existing culverts (if present), completing excavation down to the appropriate depth, culvert installation, compacting the backfill, and replacing aggregate. Equipment to complete the project includes an excavator, grader, roller and multiple 12 CY dump trucks.

Access to the project sites would be on Forest Service Roads 9335, 9337 and 9337B. Delays may be expected during culvert replacement/installation but a road closure would not be needed. Access to the 9337 and 9337B sites would require a temporary easement through the southern end of Road 9337. The easement **was started for the Center Johnson EA** and is nearly ready to sign. If the easement cannot be negotiated access is possible from FSR 672 but would take significant reconstruction of the road. Reconstruction is scheduled to be completed during the Center Johnson Timber Sale.

A 404 permit from US Army Corps of Engineers would be required before work could begin.

Contractor selection would likely occur this spring with work to be completed in the summer of 2020.

**List the Design Criteria / Mitigation Measures \* to be included with the Proposed Action.**

- Route road drainage away from potentially unstable stream channels, fills, and hillslopes.
- Avoiding disruption of natural hydrologic flow paths
- PACFISH/INFISH – Roads Management: Construct new, and improve existing, culverts, bridges, and other stream crossings to accommodate a 100-year flood, including associated bedload and debris, where those improvements would/pose a substantial risk to riparian conditions. Substantial risk improvements include those that do not meet design and maintenance criteria, or that retard attainment of Riparian Management Objectives, or that do not protect designated critical habitat from increased sedimentation. Base priority for upgrading on risks to listed anadromous fish and their designated critical habitat and the ecological value of the riparian resources affected. Construct and maintain crossings to prevent diversion of streamflow out of the channel and down the road in the event of failure.
- During road work (construction, re-construction, maintenance, decommissioning, or long-term storage) activities, measures are to be taken to prevent or minimize sediment from entering streams during project activities and in the long-term, such as: (a) placing removable sediment traps below work areas to trap fines; (b) when working instream, removing all fill around pipes prior to bypass and pipe removal (where this is not possible, use non-eroding diversion); (c) revegetating scarified and disturbed soils with grasses (weed free) for short-term erosion protection and with shrubs and trees for long-term soil stability; (d) mulching with native materials, where available, or using weed-free straw to ensure coverage of exposed soils; (e) dissipating energy in the newly constructed stream channels using log or rock weirs; and (f) armoring channel banks and dissipating energy with large rock whenever possible.
- **WATER QUALITY - The Forest(s) will use best management practices to control pollutant sources under their jurisdiction. The Forest(s) Plans require that most projects watershed improvements associated with the projects. Most of the best management practices contain both sediment source reduction and shade improvement. **South Fork Clearwater River TMDL Implementation Plan; Lolo Creek Tributaries Subbasin Assessment TMDL; Lochsa River Subbasin Temperature TMDL****
- All reconstructed and temporary constructed road segments within RHCAs would be graveled 100ft. on either side of the crossing upon completion of reconstruction/construction
- Ground-disturbing activities would be halted if cultural resources are discovered until an Archaeologist can properly evaluate and document the resources in compliance with 36 CFR 800.

*\* Additional Design Criteria/Measures can be listed under "Additional Information" on the last page of this form.*

**Small NEPA IDT/resource specialists are listed below. Contact them if you have any questions regarding their resource for your project.**

Botany – Mike Hays, [mike.hays@usda.gov](mailto:mike.hays@usda.gov); 983-4028

Fisheries – Derrick Bawdon, [derrick.bawdon@usda.gov](mailto:derrick.bawdon@usda.gov); 963-4211

Heritage – Christy Mog, [christy.mog@usda.gov](mailto:christy.mog@usda.gov); 935-4269

Hydrology – Cynthia Valle, [cynthis.valle@usda.gov](mailto:cynthis.valle@usda.gov); 963-4203

Minerals – Marty Jones, [martin.jones@usda.gov](mailto:martin.jones@usda.gov); 983-5158

Recreation – Carol Hennessey, [cahennessey@fs.fed.us](mailto:cahennessey@fs.fed.us); 935-4270

Soils – Alex Rozin, [alexandra.rozin@usda.gov](mailto:alexandra.rozin@usda.gov); 842-2100

Wild and Scenic River – Chris Noyes, [chris.noyes@usda.gov](mailto:chris.noyes@usda.gov); 935-4251

Wildlife – Jim Lutes, [james.r.lutes@usda.gov](mailto:james.r.lutes@usda.gov); 963-4202

Small NEPA Planner – Jeff Chynoweth, [james.chynoweth@usda.gov](mailto:james.chynoweth@usda.gov); 935-4260

## PROJECT MAPS

Please send – separate from this form and per the instructions outlined below – a GIS-generated map or maps of the project area (pdf format only) with the project submission email.

- Make sure that the map layers can be turned on / off / are editable.
- Make sure the map(s) fits on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper.

Provide at least one map, preferably “portrait” orientation, with the project area / features as:

- a Point, e.g. culvert, bridge, etc.,
- a Line, e.g. fence, road, creek, etc., and/or
- a Polygon, e.g. stand boundaries, treatment areas, etc.
  - Do not use a point if treating an area, use a polygon.
  - Points/lines/polygons need to be distinct and easily found on the map.
  - The project area / site needs to be centered on the map, especially if only one area/feature.

Please use the Forest Visitor Map as your map’s base layer.

- Do not add contour lines to the FV map unless needed for clarifying the proposed action. Contour lines can make the map difficult to read.
  - If contour lines are needed, make sure they are distinguishable from other linear features such as roads, trails, streams, etc.
- A topo map can be substituted for the FV map. If using a topo map but the contour lines are not important the topo lines should be light gray or opaque.
- Regardless of base map, make sure there are identifiable elements, e.g. towns, roads, streams, etc. on the map to help locate the project area on the landscape and that the elements are clearly labeled.

The preferred map scale (typically 1:24K) is whatever scale best presents the project area’s location and proposed activities:

- If the 1:24K scale is too small (i.e. the project feature(s) – point/line/polygon – would be hard to find or would be indistinguishable on just one map), use a larger scale to show the overall project area (coarse scale map) and smaller scaled maps to show the project features (fine scale map).
- If the 1:24K scale is too big (i.e. the project feature is a tiny point or thin line lost/hard to find on the larger landscape), use a smaller scale to highlight the feature while ensuring there are elements on the map to identify the project’s location.
- If you need to make additional maps, please make as few as possible.

At a minimum, all maps should include (with the preferred but not set in stone location on the map):

- a Title (project name and district name only (please); centered at top)
- a Legend (features clearly labeled; lower right corner)
- a Scale (in half mile, e.g. 0\_\_0.25\_\_0.5 miles, or full miles, e.g. 0\_\_0.25\_\_0.5\_\_1.0 miles; lower left corner)
- a North Arrow (upper right corner)
  - Display all of the above in boxes with black outlines and a white backgrounds (not gray or yellow)
  - Do not ‘Halo’ the text or numbers or anything else on the map. Please.
  - The Scale needs to be large enough to read the numbers.

Finally, please include the mapmakers name and the date it was created on the map.

**The Map(s) you provide will be used for Scoping the Public and the Tribes and in the Decision document. Please make sure they show – clearly, effectively, and professionally – what activity or activities are being proposed and where they are located on the Nez Perce - Clearwater National Forests.**



### SHAPEFILES

The resource specialists require the shapefile(s) of the project's proposed activities before they will conduct their analyses. Providing the shapefile does not substitute for providing a pdf map.

The Project Proponent needs to send the shapefile, or a location where the shapefile can be found, to the Small NEPA Planner (currently: jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us) by the time or shortly after the District Ranger submits this form.

- Shapefiles need to include the Project Name and have the Feature (culvert, bridge, etc.) labeled.
- Shapefiles need to include the following extensions – .dbf, .prj, .sbn, .shp, .shx, and .xml.

## Projects in Roadless Area

<b>What is the Inventoried Roadless Area name?</b>  <i>O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\Roadless Rule Info</i>	<b><u>Forest Plan IRA Name (if different):</u></b>
<b>Identify the Idaho Roadless Management Classification:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Wild Land Recreation</i></li> <li>• <i>Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance</i></li> <li>• <i>Primitive</i></li> <li>• <i>Backcountry Restoration</i></li> <li>• <i>General Forest, Rangeland and Grassland</i></li> </ul>	<b>Classification(s):</b>
<b>Does the project involve constructing or reconstructing roads?</b> Yes* No <i>* If yes, see <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2</a> then navigate to Subpart C 294.23</i>	
<b>Does the project involve cutting trees?</b> Yes* No <i>* If yes, see <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2</a> then navigate to Subpart C 294.24</i>	
<b>Does the project involve removing minerals, including common variety minerals?</b> Yes* No <i>* If yes, see <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2</a> then navigate to Subpart C 294.25</i>	

JC : 9/16/2019

Additional Information: